

Department of Administration

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Glenn A. Grant
Business Administrator

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE SHARPE JAMES, MAYOR

FROM: GLENN A. GRANT
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: MARCH 3, 1997

RE: CABLEVISION TRUST FUND

Pursuant to your request, attached hereto please find documentation in regard to the abovementioned Trust Fund.

To date the City has received \$1.5 million from Cablevision pursuant to its approval of an agreement to allow Gilbert Media Association to transfer ownership of its right to provide cable television to residents of the City of Newark. The total amount to be paid the City of Newark is \$1.8 million.

As you should be aware, the Council and Administration have the idea of using these proceeds for the development of a government channel. It has always been my understanding that both the Mayor and Council support this idea of developing this type of center. Based upon my recollection, representatives of the City including Joseph Bradley, Ken Lewis, and others visited the cities of Pittsburgh and Baltimore in 1990 or 1991 to examine their local cable operations.

The broad goal is to build either in City Hall or someplace adjacent thereto a complete studio with lighting, backdrop, computer and broadcast equipment, which would allow the government of the City of Newark to convey information about its various programs and activities. Based upon the Pittsburgh/Baltimore model, these programs are principally administration based because the bulk of the government activities takes place at that level.

Honorable Sharpe James, Mayor

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The financial status of the Trust Fund is as follows:

1. Trust Fund payment through December 31, 1997 total \$1.5 million.
2. Additional \$150,000 payments are due for 1997 and 1998. The total amount to be paid under the agreements is therefore \$1.8 million.
3. Pursuant to the 1996 request of the Municipal Council, the Budget Office created a line item for \$130,000.
4. Two contracts have been entered into with Tele-Measurements, Inc. in the amounts of \$100,000 and 30,000, to purchase broadcast/studio equipment within the Council Chambers. To date no money has actually been drawn down on these contracts.
5. The Council has requested an additional appropriation for \$25,426 for 1997. This amount has not yet been approved.
6. The remaining balance, therefore, totals (including 1997 payment) \$1,520,000.

Please advise as to whether you have any additional questions.



GLENN A. GRANT
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

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Attachment